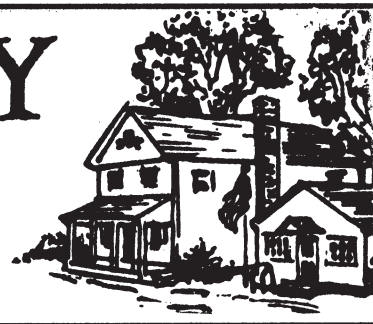




# MONTEREY NEWS

December 2006  
VOLUME XXXVI · Number 12



## The Town

### School Issues

At the first Select Board meeting in November, Select Board member Jon Sylbert distributed copies of the Monterey School section of an engineering report from EDM commissioned by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Maynard Forbes, Director of Operations, and Don Torrico, Building Commissioner,

were asked to read the report and advise the Select Board.

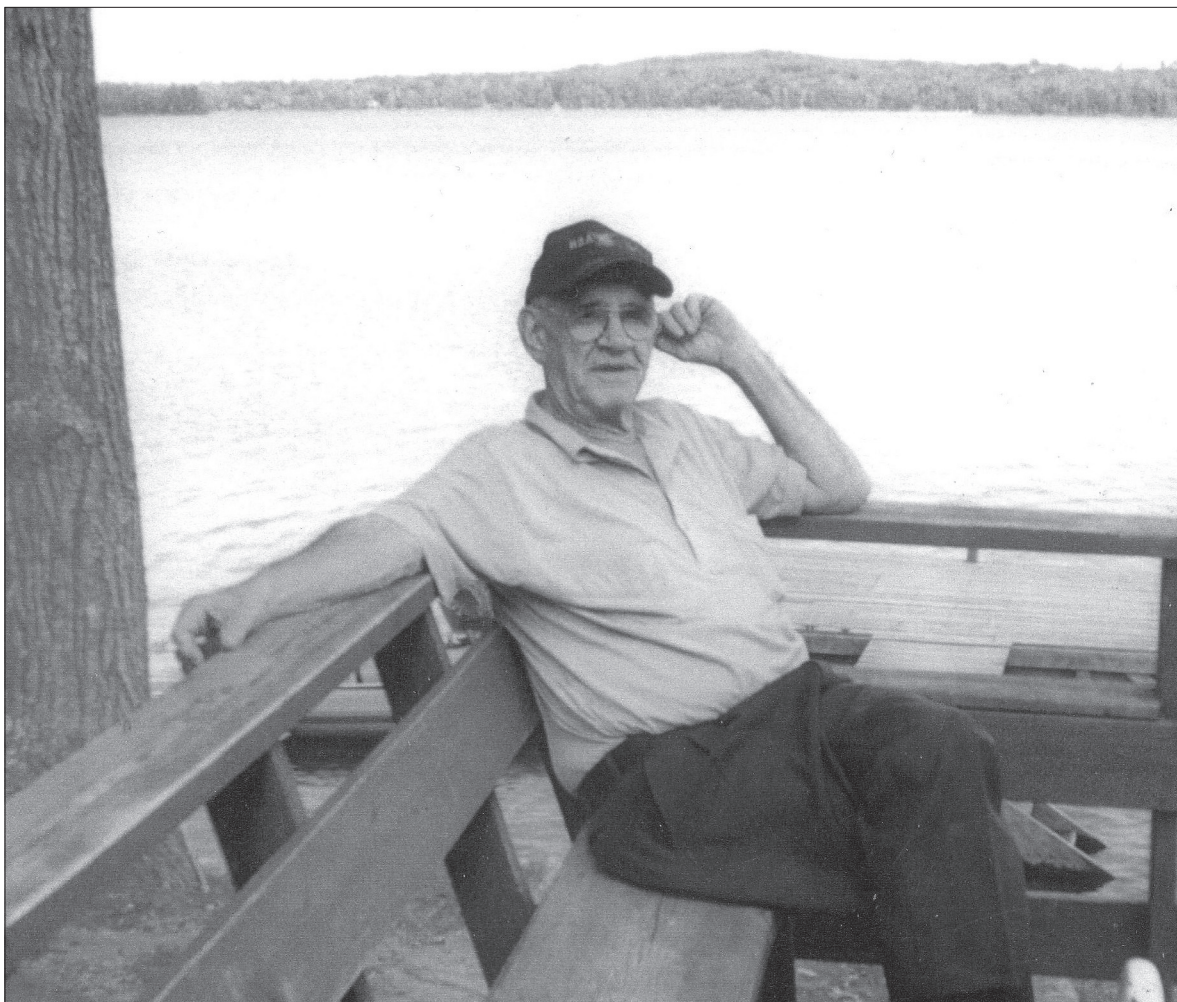
Monterey's Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee Representative, Deborah D. Mielke, asked the Select Board if any of them would be able to attend a meeting called by the School Committee for December 7 to discuss the EDM report.

The annual school census recorded by Linda Thorpe revealed that 38 school-age children from Monterey are enrolled in

the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Another 52 children have choiced out to other districts. Twelve are enrolled in private or parochial schools, and 12 are home schooled.

### Director of Operations

Director of Operations Forbes asked the Select Board about landscaping done on a lakefront property, including tree removal and building of stone walls. During discussion of whether a permit was issued



*Henry Wolfer (1923–2006) at Lake Garfield.*

for this project, Select Board member Wayne Burkhart noted that although town bylaws require a permit for stone walls, there may be some ambiguity because of the longstanding New England tradition of marking boundaries with stone walls.

Despite all of the rainstorms in recent weeks, Forbes pointed out that electricity has not gone out in town, which he attributed to the tree trimming done by Tamarack. The board thanked the Highway Department for the good work done with Tamarack.

Noting that a new resident burned brush outside of burn season and without notifying Forbes, Sylbert suggested that the police visit the offenders to explain local law to them.

New culverts and catch basins are in place on Fairview Road; the work was completed by the end of Thanksgiving week. Forbes noted that the rain during the week of November 13 did not do any damage to the road. Select Board

Chair Michael Storch said that despite all the preparation and attention paid to Fairview Road, the repair may prove to be only temporary. He said that \$22,000 had been spent in one week on the road's repairs. The final cost, not yet totaled because of outstanding bills, will be in excess of \$25,000.

Forbes will visit Williamstown to check out their solar panels as he contemplates a similar installation for the town garage.

In response to a request from the Select Board, Forbes drafted a letter to Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli about the state's lack of maintenance of the public boat ramp at Lake Buel.

Discussion of a town salt shed continues. Forbes brought pictures of different styles for salt sheds so the Select Board can familiarize itself with available alternatives. Sylbert reported that he finds the Sandisfield salt shed "very, very tall." Forbes said that height is needed for delivery trucks.

Logging has begun on the Haynes property on Mt. Hunger Road, leading the Select Board to request a copy of the Forest Cutting Plan submitted to the Conservation Commission (ConCom). Responding to the board's question about whether a plan needs to be filed for cutting within the Scenic Mountain Act region, ConCom member Chris Blair said such a plan does

not need to be filed if the landowner complies with the state's Forest Cutting Act. Burkhart posited that logging is a land management issue.

Work on the River Road bridge has recommenced. The concrete has been poured, but the rains have caused some delays.

## Building Issues

At the November 6th Select Board meeting and again at the November 20th meeting, Building Commissioner Don Torrico asked about access to the Assessors' data and software. Sylbert said the Assessors say that the problem with access to the data is with the software used by Patriots, the company that recorded the data. If the current software Torrico is using does not integrate with the Assessors' software so that he can automate his data processing, then he must meet with the Assessors.

Torrico told the Select Board that a sign on Art School Road for the newly opened Art School Inn requires a sign permit, and he will send the owner a letter to that effect. He also reported that the new owners of a house on Bidwell Road had done some landscaping using heavy machinery within the 100-ft. buffer area of the lake without filing with the Conservation Commission. ConCom was made aware of the situation.

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Certificates of Occupancy were issued to Lombard LLC on Mt. Hunger Estates and for the Aronson residence on Bidwell Road.

Torricon is dealing with a garage built without a permit and not up to code.

In response to questions from Select Board chair Michael Storch about camp inspections, Torricon said that he issues a Certificate of Inspection and the Board of Health issues the permit to the camp. Burkhart interpreted this as "parallel processes." Storch said that the Select Board bears the ultimate responsibility in town matters, while Burkhart dissented.

Noting that he could be more responsive to last-minute calls from contractors for inspection, Torricon asked if Monterey could offer to pay the Town of Lee a small amount of money per month so he could be contacted on his cell phone, issued and paid for by Lee.

## Police Blotter

The big news from the Police Department in November was the department's participation in the search for and arrest of two suspects accused of more than 40 house break-ins in southern Berkshire County within the past six months. Other police department activity during late October and the first three weeks of November include: two false alarms on Hupi Road and one on Wellman; assistance with the Halloween hay wagon; a Halloween complaint about children asking for money; a report by a local contractor that he was



*Annabel Edelman of Monterey portrayed the Wicked Witch of the West in the sold out Berkshire Theater Festival Main Stage production of The Wizard of Oz in September.*

assaulted by another contractor; a lost weed whacker on Hupi Road that fell off a truck but was not found; assistance on Brewer Circle; multiple building checks for people on vacation; loose cows on Main Road; abandoned 911 calls; a response to a call about a personal problem on Art School Road; a call from a person concerned about a visitor; the return of a lost dog; assistance in a domestic dispute; report of a animal thought to be rabid that apparently wasn't; assistance to the New

Marlborough Police Department on a Section 12 (involuntary hospitalization for psychological reasons); and a report by a parent that a child had received a death threat in an instant message.

Sylbert thanked Backhaus for the assistance the Police Department provided on Halloween and reported that it was a great evening for both children and their parents.

In response to a question about the limitations on the hours contractors can

>

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work on building projects, Backhaus said that he follows the rules governing "disturbing the peace," which translates into no construction before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m.

In response to questions about fines for false fire alarms, Backhaus suggested that the town consider charging actual expenses incurred in response to false alarms beyond the first one. The town must pay for two hours' time of all firefighters who respond to unnecessary fire alarms, noted Backhaus. Backhaus said that because almost all false fire alarms are generated by defective equipment, levying fines commensurate with actual town outlays for repeated false fire alarms would encourage offenders to maintain their alarm system in good working order. "We want to correct the problem, not make money on it," he concluded.

Backhaus suggested that the crosswalk signs in the center of town be removed at night to prevent recurring theft. He will replace the one stolen recently in front of Town Hall.

### Compensation Committee

The newly formed Compensation Committee, which will be investigating salary and benefit levels for full-time town employees, includes town employees Maynard Forbes and Gareth Backhaus, Select Board Chair Michael Storch, Dan

Moriarty of the Finance Committee, and Janet Cathcart. Melissa Noe serves as secretary to the committee.

The committee will be looking into town employee salaries, benefits, bonuses, retirement, vacation, and holidays. Its first act was to send out a survey to surrounding communities asking for information on their public employee compensation packages. The Select Board wants the committee to present its recommendations by December 18.

### Finance Committee

Finance Committee members Debra B. Mielke and Dan Moriarty told the Select Board that they would like to resume monthly meetings with them in preparation for the next town budget. Even though attendance at this past year's information meeting before Town Meeting was sparsely attended, the Finance Committee would like to continue holding such a meeting.

The Finance Committee and members of the Select Board worked out a schedule for budget preparation, deciding that the warrant for Town Meeting must be finalized by April 9, so all departmental budget requests must be in by January 29. The Finance Committee will send out budget request forms in the first week of January. The warrant for the May 5th Town Meeting will be mailed on April 17, and

the informational meeting will be held on Friday, April 27.

### Town Lakes

In the Select Board meeting of November 20, Rick Mielke was asked about weed harvesting and dredging at Lake Buel to try to determine if that might be an option for Lake Garfield. Mielke said that weed whacking is like lawn mowing — "Once you start, you've got to keep it up." Mielke believes that the lake needs dredging in the shallow areas, and noted further that what is dredged up can be used as soil fertilizer.

Also on November 20, the Select Board reviewed the two proposals received to conduct the study for a new NOI (Notice of Intent) for Lake Garfield drawdowns. The \$5,000 needed to pay for the study was budgeted at last May's Town Meeting. The Select Board voted unanimously to invite Kenneth J. Wagner of ENSR to a meeting to discuss the job, and he will come on Monday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m.

Former Friends of Lake Garfield President Janet Cathcart, also in attendance at the meeting, reiterated her belief that regular 6-ft. drawdowns of Lake

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| <b>22</b> | <b>JAZZ NIGHT</b>      | <small>Allan Dean<br/>Billy Barkin<br/>Mark Caldwell</small> |
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Garfield are needed to reduce the invasive weed population and to allow the return of native weeds. When Sylbert asked if dredging such as is done on Lake Buel could not be accomplished at the same time as drawdowns, Cathcart cautioned that one must not confuse dredging with drawdowns because the two activities are unrelated.

## This and That

Park Commission Chairman Leroy Thorpe asked the Select Board if a decision had been made on a fence by the creek near the playground. The Park Commission has been recommending a 3-ft- high fence to prohibit small children from falling into the stream. Thorpe said his commission's budget would cover the estimated \$1,000 for the fence. The Select Board agreed to the fence installation but asked that it be done with minimal brush cutting.

At a Classification Hearing at 10:00 a.m. on November 13, Stan Ross, representing the Board of Assessors, recommended that the Select Board adopt one single tax rate for all property classifications (commercial, residential, industrial, and personal) for the fiscal year ending June 2007. Ross said that this is an annual ritual, done to establish a uniform tax rate

for Monterey. The Select Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation. In response to questioning, Ross said that the assessors believe there are 63 businesses operating in Monterey.

Residents attending the November 6 Select Board meeting complained about the lack of DSL Internet connections for much of Monterey, even though several dozen households were recently able to receive such service. The spirited discussion of this lack of DSL led to a request that the Select Board look into alternatives to Verizon for providing high-speed internet access for everyone in Monterey who wants it. At the November 20 Select Board meeting, it was suggested that residents interested in DSL through Verizon contact Brian Moore of that company at his office in Great Barrington. He can be reached at 528-9926, although those who called the number received an automated response to the effect that the "mail box" was full.

Deborah D. Mielke, a realtor with Co-rashire Realty, reported that the situation with the sale of Kinne's Grove remains the same. She suggested that the Select Board create an ad hoc committee to investigate the procedures when the town would like to purchase property. She believes that if there is an established procedure, the town could act more quickly when buying opportunities arise.

Town Hall will have a new telephone system installed soon, which will mean that all calls ring on the same line, with prompts to the caller to reach the appropriate extensions.

As town employees, boards, and commissions begin cleaning out their paper backlogs, a shredder larger than the one currently in use is needed. Melissa Noe will bring in a catalogue so the Select Board can decide what type of shredder will be needed.

Steve McMahon of The Trustees of Reservations addressed the Select Board on November 20 about the newly created Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. Noting that this new agency will receive federal funding of up to one million dollars per year for the next ten years, McMahon encouraged the board to submit proposals to Housatonic Heritage for preserving important parts of Monterey's history. Enthusiasm for such funding diminished slightly when McMahon noted that funds are available only on a one-to-one matching basis.

— Laurily K. Epstein

(Special thanks to Maggie Leonard for the great job on last month's town report.)

## Correction

In the November *Monterey News* town news it was incorrectly reported that the Kinne's Grove property was never advertised. L. Chapin Fish, Broker Associate with William Brockman Real Estate, informs us that he submitted the property listing to the Berkshire County Multiple Listing Service on October 6, and that the property was shown by various member agencies in South County during that weekend. We regret the mistake. — Ed.

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## Planning Board News

November is a notoriously sleepy month for news from the Planning Board because we only have one meeting; the Thanksgiving holiday, which, obviously, is always on a Thursday, precludes the second of our twice-monthly meetings.

The Planning Board was thrilled to welcome Jason Dunlop as our new secretary. Jason is affiliated with Gould Farm and is keen to learn more about Monterey and become involved in town government. He is the grandson of long-time Monterey resident Edward Dunlop. Planning Board member Janet Cathcart has loaned Jason a laptop computer for taking the minutes of the meetings, and we are off and running.

At the October 26, 2006, meeting the Planning Board held a public hearing to make some changes to the Subdivision Control Regulations. (This event was eclipsed in the last *Monterey News* by a complicated land division plan that I attempted to explain.) The public hearing was sparsely, but dutifully, attended by two citizens: Wayne Burkhart, currently a Select Board member and formerly a member of the Planning Board, and Kay Purcell, who said she was interested. The amendments and additions that were discussed are as follows: regulations regarding the submission of applications for approval

of a Definitive Subdivision Plan; regulations dealing with the adequacy of access to a subdivision road; and the right of the Planning Board to hire outside consultants for complex projects.

The general requirements for the submission of an application for the approval of a Definitive Plan include that the application must be either mailed to the Planning Board or to the Town Clerk by registered mail, or be delivered to the Planning Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. The applications must have the requisite number of copies and the applicant must also give written notice to the Town Clerk, either by delivery or registered mail, that the plan has been submitted to the Planning Board. The Planning Board is required to perform a completeness review of the application at the Planning Board meeting when the plan is submitted. If an application lacks required information, the Planning Board may reject it on the basis of its being an incomplete submission. The completeness review is an important addition to our subdivision regulations because it allows the Planning Board to stop the clock on incomplete applications. (Currently the Subdivision Control Regulations allows 90 days for the Planning Board to review and vote on applications.)

Adequacy of access regulations were also added, which will govern existing

roads or ways that lead to a proposed subdivision road. This addition to the Subdivision Control Regulations is directly related to a preliminary plan that was submitted over a year ago for a proposed subdivision road off of West Road, a small private road that leads to Route 57. In this case the Planning Board informed the potential developer that West Road was not currently adequate to lead to a subdivision road and that the road would need to be significantly improved prior to approval as a subdivision road. Now the town has in place regulations that specify requirements for width, grade, drainage, surface, and sight distance on roads that lead to a subdivision road. Also, now the town has the ability to require the upgrade of roads that lead to a subdivision road.


Another addition to the Subdivision Control Regulations is the right of the Planning Board to employ outside consultants, with the costs to be paid by the applicant. A Definitive Plan for a subdivision has many requirements like the ones mentioned in the previous paragraph, i.e., drainage, grades, amelioration of erosion, etc. Much as we planners might like to whip out our junior engineer badges, in many cases these plans are complex and

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require the attention of a professional engineer to assure that they are correct and, most importantly, to assure that the actual work performed matches the plan. The Planning Board has not reviewed a Definitive Plan in quite some time—perhaps ten years—and that is certainly not enough experience to be in any way proficient at analyzing engineering plans. This clarification of the right of the Planning Board to hire an outside consultant ensures that the town will be adequately protected by the expertise of a professional at no cost to the town.

Having heard no objections to the proposed changes and additions, the public hearing portion of the meeting was closed. The Planning Board voted unanimously to approve all the additions and amendments as read.

If you made it all the way through this article, congratulations and thank you. Realize that the creation and implementation of regulations governing the procedures for and development of subdivisions is not a particularly “sexy” topic. However, these rules will stand Monterey in good stead as we move into the future.

— Maggie Leonard, Chair  
Monterey Planning Board



## Community Potluck Dinners

It almost didn’t happen, but Wednesday, November 8, marked the beginning of the new season of Monterey Community Potluck Dinners. Sally Pullen and Dianna Downing, who had done such a wonderful job of coordinating the suppers for the last few years, had requested new volunteers and warned us time and again that they were not able to continue, but no one believed they meant it. But at the last minute our Monterey community pulled together, and the result was a lovely dinner enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Dianna Downing, Sally and Steve Pullen, Will Marsh, Liz Goodman, Steve Snyder, Barbara and Jules Dahlman, and all the others who made it happen, came to the dinner, and participated in the planning for future dinners.

The schedule for future dinners was set up keeping in mind other local events, such as the Dowmell Lectures, so not all of the dinners are on the second Wednesday of the month—some are on the first Wednesday. The upcoming dinners have been set for December 6, January 10, February 14, March 7, April 11, and May 9. All will be held at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share, a serving utensil, and a plate and silverware for yourself.



## Christmas Party

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Hayride starts at church  
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and refreshments, plus  
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The after-dinner program on December 6 will be provided by Monterey’s own George Emmons, who will speak on the General Knox Trail. He will have several paintings on loan from the Knox Trail Inn, depicting the treacherous blazing of the trail from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston during the Revolutionary War so that captured canons could be brought to Boston to help drive out the British.



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## Benefit Concert for Local Musicians December 29th

Kenn Basler at the Monterey general Store would like to create a fund to augment the tip jar on a slow music night, so that no musician will end up without gas money home and a couple extra shekels to rub together for warmth. Think of it as the NO MUSICIAN LEFT BEHIND FUND.

To raise money for the Fund a big benefit concert is planned, featuring several of the most popular General Store acts (other than Kenn, the most popular act). The concert will be on Friday, December 29, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Monterey Meetinghouse. Tickets are \$10, but if you're really concerned for the starving musician class, a higher price can be negotiated.

Performers include:

- Hailey & Sammy Brown (Rock, Pop, Country)
- Allan Dean & Jazz Night Trio (Jazz)
- Robin O'Herin (Acoustic Blues and Gospel)
- David Reed (Caribbean-flavored Folk and Pop)
- Joel Schick (Original Juke Joint R&B)
- Tom Ingersoll, Tony Maines (Folk)
- Bobby Sweet (Original Folk and Country)

Note that the concert is on the anniversary of last year's big Vikki True Benefit Concert. The audience and the musicians all enjoyed that so much that they bethought themselves to catch a second lighting bolt in the same bottle. Don't miss this one!



### MONTEREY LIBRARY

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Kathryn Roberts

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## Don't Forget Your Camera

As you enjoy the holidays in Monterey, keep in mind the photo contest scheduled by the Cultural Council for Memorial Day weekend 2007. We hope for photos from all the seasons. Watch the *Monterey News* for details.

## Thanks, Folks

Thank you to all those who donated nonperishable items for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

— Melissa Noe

Interdepartmental Secretary

## Upon my Word!

In these days, we may look for signs of some improvement in family relations. So cheer up as you digest the following:

The expression "rule of thumb" has a troubling origin. Apparently in the Middle Ages it was a common practice for men to beat their wives and children to keep them in line. Presumably, after many complaints were registered, a law was passed that the stick or switch was not to be bigger than the husband's thumb or else!

— Alice O. Howell



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## My Work at St. Peter's Soup Kitchen

In September I had the privilege to work at the soup kitchen at St. Peter's Parish Center. I arrived at four o'clock. The first thing we did was to bring out eight sizable tables and set them. When the diners began arriving at 5:30, the real work began.

I quickly discovered that it was a tough job to serve a four-course meal to eight whole tables of people with one other assistant. People kept arriving and departing, and for two hours we were kept busy serving dish after dish of salad, soup, chicken, and Jell-O. We also had to keep track of who had eaten what and make sure everyone was happy. This pushed my mental capacity to the brink.

By the time dinner concluded at 7:30, I was exhausted. I had not anticipated that serving a meal would be so tiring. Beforehand I had never appreciated how hard it is to be a waiter. Now whenever I go to a restaurant I remember my own experience at the soup kitchen.

However, I also had a very good time. I enjoyed serving so many people. Occasionally I met someone I knew. It felt good to be helping out. In its own way, the soup kitchen was an exhilarating experience, and I found working there extremely rewarding. I hope I will return there in the future.

— Jonah Carlson

## Monterey Library Notes

DSL is here. Only a small number of lines were made available in town and fortunately we are hooked up. We have one computer dedicated to Internet access. Printing is available for \$0.20 per page. We also have a wifi capability, so anyone with a laptop and wireless capability can log on to the network 24/7. The library does not need to be open, and you don't need to be in the building. When your computer searches for wireless networks you will see, among others that exist in the center of town, Monterey Library. Click on that and you will not need a password. It is unsecured so anyone can use it anytime. This is a big service to the town and we are happy to provide it. If you need help with this come in when the library is open and we'll help get you started. If you have any difficulties please let us know—we have no idea who uses this, or when, or what they use it for. If the light on the modem is blinking I can tell it's being used, but other than that we don't know. We would love to hear from you if you have used it and that it works, and we will try to do what we can if you are having problems; but unless we hear from you we won't know.

Incidentally, from what we understand the cost of this service will be covered by a grant from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. If this is of value to you, or if you borrow any videos, DVDs, or audiobooks, please consider joining the Friends of WMRLS.

The Region's budget received another cut last month from the state, leaving only \$5,000 for new bookmobile materials! That is less than Monterey spends in one year on books alone, and the region serves over 300 libraries in the four counties of Western Massachusetts. Last year the Friends of WMRLS donated \$10,000 to the bookmobile for materials acquisition. The membership forms are in the library and also are now on the web; you can join by visiting <http://friends.wmrls.org/join/index.html>. A membership costs less than what it would cost to buy one audiobook. What is it worth to you to have access to videos, DVDs, audiobooks, and the fastest Internet in town?

A huge thank-you to Mark Amstead, who brought over his platform lift and operated it skillfully to within inches of the top of the flagpole. The winds of October had ripped the pulley out of the top of the pole. With Mark's donated help we replaced the top and the flag is once again proudly flying high. Just as with WMRLS, we are also grateful to the many people who donate their time and talent in many different ways to make the library an important part of the community.

Finally, the contest for guessing the number of books circulated from this building from 1931–2006 is over. Isabel Lindsay and Mary Makuc deserve honorable mentions, but Jonah Carlson was the closest at 400,000—only 384 short of the total. At our current rate we should be at half a million in another ten years!

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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## Recent Library Acquisitions

### Adult Fiction

*Hundred Dollar Baby*, Robert Parker

*Shape Shifter*, Tony Hillerman

*Bleeding Hearts*, Ian Rankin

*For One More Day*, Mitch Albom

*Imperium: A Novel of Ancient Rome*,  
Robert Harris

*Under Orders*, Dick Francis

*Thirteen Moons*, Charles Frazier

*Handmaid and the Carpenter*, Elizabeth  
Berg

*Motor Mouth*, Janet Evanovich

*You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled*,  
Parnell Hall

### Adult Nonfiction

*Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined  
Man*, Dale Peterson

*America Alone: The End of the World as  
We Know It*, Mark Steyn

*From Counterculture to Cyberculture*,  
Fred Turner

*I Like You: Hospitality under the Influen-  
cel*, Amy Sedaris

*Social intelligence and the New Science*,  
Daniel Goleman

*Hedonist in the Cellar: Adventures in  
Wine*, Jay McInerney

### Childrens

*Point Blank*, Anthony Horowitz

*Firehorse*, Diane Wilson

*Ice Dragon*, George Martin

*Hurricane Katrina Strikes the Gulf Coast*,  
Mara Miller

*White Elephant*, Sid Fleischman

*Our Fifty States: A Family Adventure  
across America*, Lynne Cheney

*Black Tower*, Betsy Byars

*Marcy Watson Fights Crime*, Kate Di-  
Camillo

## Story Time, Crafts for Children at Monterey Library December 16

On Saturday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m., Denise Andrus will present a program of stories and crafts for children at the Monterey Library. Denise's programs have become very popular, and the library staff and trustees are grateful to her for doing them.

## CHP Family Network Playgroups

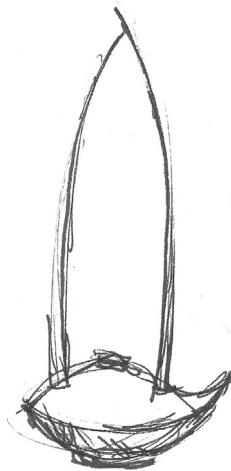
New Marlborough Library Story  
Hour, Wednesdays, 10–11:30 a.m.

Otis Playgroup, Otis Town Hall,  
Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon.

Family Center Playgroup, Great  
Barrington Family Center, Tuesdays,  
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Sandisfield Playgroup, Sandisfield  
Community Center, Tuesdays, 9:30–  
11:30 a.m.

For more playgroups and information  
call 528-0721.



## Dual Homeowners Corner

We are on our way to Lake Buel to experience the Berkshire environment as the winter season approaches and to be able to walk along the beach before the snow begins to fall. We will store these memories and then, on Thanksgiving Day, share them with our family and plan for their next visit. Will it be to ski at Butternut Basin, or will we wait until the spring when the roads are not clogged with snow. We are always searching for reasons to be there at other times. Our friendships have expanded, and we enjoy seeing and connecting with many people who live in or near Monterey. These connections, in addition to the unique environment and beauty of the Berkshires, make our vacation house a symbol of positive and enriching experiences.

I am sure that other families have experiences similar to ours, and I would like to hear about them. Please tell me by contacting Will Marsh at the *Monterey News*. In the meantime, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and hope that we will all have a peaceful year.

— Barbara Haver



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## Is It Trash, Compost, or Should You Recycle It? Grant Means Garbage Help for Local Towns

An \$89,000 grant means rural towns, businesses and individuals in western Massachusetts can get help figuring out how to manage their trash problems. The grant, recently secured by the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program, is meant to help communities with fewer than 10,000 residents divert waste from landfills and combustion facilities through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. "We're excited to be able to work with energized community and environmental groups in the Berkshires," said Jamie Cahillane, director of recycling services for CET. "That's the best part of receiving this grant."

"Landfilling or combusting waste results in greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change," said CET Co-Director Laura Dubester. "Recycling and reducing waste are things everyone can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—at home, at work, and in our communities."

Among other things, communities, businesses, and schools will be able to create systems for separating recyclables from bona fide trash, with a little help from the experts at CET. This grant will allow groups from pre-schools to senior centers

to set up community recycling programs with CET's help.

"Beyond bottles and cans, we can help people figure out how to reduce their total waste and give guidance on what is recyclable and what is not," says Cahillane. "This is a real opportunity for communities to take advantage of our services and expertise in the waste-management field," he said. "We can lead a presentation or a discussion on topics as varied as how to compost, reduce waste, or use less toxic products at home and in the garden."

Businesses, schools, and other groups often struggle with how to safely dispose of items like used fluorescent bulbs, outdated electronics, and rechargeable batteries. CET can help them all—last year, CET worked with the Becket/Washington Elementary School to establish paper recycling. "We can help schools and other groups understand the regulations that govern solid waste disposal," says Cahillane. "We'll work with them to figure out the logistics of collecting and storing their recyclables, and suggest recycling options. In western Massachusetts, we also have an economic incentive to recycle. Most western Massachusetts towns are paid an average of more than \$25 for every ton of recyclables they bring to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility."

"Keeping scenic, western Massachusetts beautiful requires the best practices to safeguard the environment," said Representative John Olver (D, 1st

District.) "Know-how is essential to waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. This grant will provide communities, businesses and schools with valuable tools to preserve what's unique about our area."

"USDA Rural Development has been working with CET for several years now and we are very pleased to continue to support their efforts toward waste reduction and education about reuse and recycling," said Rural Development State Director David Tuttle. "Our agency's mission is to improve the quality of life in rural America, and CET has proven to be a great partner in that endeavor."

Interested in learning more about CET's services? Contact Jamie Cahillane at [jamiec@cetonline.org](mailto:jamiec@cetonline.org) or call 413-445-4556, ext. 14. The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is a non-profit energy and resource conservation and waste management organization serving western Massachusetts, with offices in Pittsfield, Northampton and Springfield. CET is an equal opportunity provider and is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



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## Hope

*Pain is the measure of our hope  
and hope the inchworm of our pain  
so we rearrange our reasons  
and rearrange again*

*reason may accept a death  
as certain as a fact  
but hope refutes the end of love  
exulting as we act*

*hope is a wind that sweeps us on  
to show us better things  
reason rejects its feathers  
and denies that it has wings*

*yet pain, hope and reason  
are but linked illusions three  
when held to the brooding calm  
of Love's eternity.*

— A. O. Howell



## This Old House

*The leaning lamp is not supposed to lean.  
The sunken couch was not supposed to sink.  
Mosquitoes shouldn't enter by a screen.  
The bathroom light is not supposed to blink.*

*The sliding doors are not supposed to stick.  
The mice are not supposed to come inside.  
The baseboard heater's not supposed to tick.  
That bag of garbage shouldn't come untied.*

*In wintertime, the upstairs floorboards creak,  
and windows rattle when the strong winds blow.  
An overburdened gutter springs a leak.  
The sign outside is hidden by the snow.*

*So what if it does not display perfection!  
We hunker down within its warm protection.*

—Ed Schur

## A Walk in the Berkshire Woods

*I walked among the trees today  
Where October sun shone warm and bright.  
Around me fell red autumn leaves  
And chipmunks scampered left and right.  
A rabbit ran along my path  
Then sat erect and scanned the scene.  
He seemed content with what he saw,  
And winced not at a blue jay's scream.  
It seemed so peaceful in the woods  
Among the fern and frond  
Where a brook gurgled at my feet  
Then ran into a beaver pond.  
Some people travel many miles  
To the Leaning Tower or Taj Mahal.  
I'll take the Berkshires' wooded trails  
For that's where Nature's wonders call.*

— Eleanor Kimberley

## Invisible Blankets

*It is time for us to be brave  
enough to admit our tears  
The nights we feared the following day  
The pit in our stomach we could not explain  
The loss of control of our mind  
The hopelessness  
and feelings that flooded our mind  
without reason*

*We could not put our finger on it  
everything was wrong  
and our minds were twisting  
and our hearts were bleeding  
and our bodies shaking  
recollecting all the pain  
we had ever endured  
and once again we were vulnerable  
to let the past wound us*

*The next day there was evidence  
of our restlessness  
Our eyes having been drained of tears  
were swollen and puffy  
signaling something was wrong  
and we felt everyone's smiles  
were signs of their happiness  
and our solemn faces were invisible blankets  
hiding nothing  
as we walked down the hall from  
one class to the next.*

— Elizabeth A. Bohlke

## Ashes

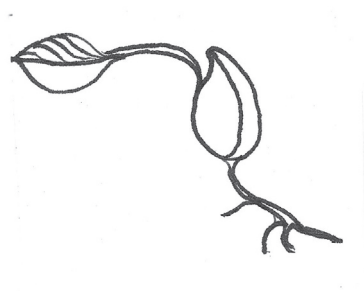
*All these truths  
have become  
all these lies  
that has burned  
me to ashes  
and as I smolder  
I realize  
no one lit the flame  
but me.*

— Elizabeth A. Bohlke

## Gone

*When you are stripped  
little by little of your identity  
until you cannot see anything left of you  
your only adjective for yourself  
becomes your diagnosis  
because that is the only thing  
that makes sense  
and consumes you.*

— Elizabeth A. Bohlke



## Annals of the Monterey School: A Response

Waxing nostalgic has always been the double-edged blessing of small town America. Places take on personalities as seen through the eyes of locals and penny fish at the General Store become as much a part of the community as town meetings and the people who attend them.

Pine trees are forts, no matter how old you become. Backyards are games played with sticks. Ice rinks are a first kiss and concussion (hopefully at different times). Parks are testaments to hard-fought Little League and Pee Wee games—fever-pitched matches between the Monterey Yankees and New Marlboro Fireballs. Final tally: no walks, no strikeouts, seven in-the-park homeruns because you can watch dandelions stain your glove darker brown, and at least one crying child with parents hugging his shoulders and promising something sweet.

This stands twofold for one-room schoolhouses. Trees are still rooted if you exclude most white birches. Backyards still clump when they're mowed after rain. Ice and kisses melt and return. But the one-room schoolhouse stands silhouetted in this case, backlit by years of consolidation and unfunded mandates.

While the Monterey School is not technically one room—it has an upstairs where students could play Frogger on old PCs and a bathroom—the one room where all lessons are taught is on the ground floor. Math (counting), English (trying to sit still through picture books), Science (Play-Doh turns your tongue blue), Gym (all desks to one side, please), Recess (YES! RECESS!).

In this room Susan Andersen was, and still stands as, the all-too-willing ringleader of her annual gaggles of energized, eager, hyperactive, shy, foot-dragging, blushed, coughy, drippy, dirty-handed, and always amorphous children of the community. She commands attention. She commands quiet, most times. She commands playtime, kind words between students, and please-don't-drink-her-milk-you-have-your-own. And in a time where teachers are employees doing a job, this former student remembers a smile and teaching style that commanded devotion and respect.

My college and city friends laugh a little when they hear I went to a kindergarten like this. The ones with some awareness of history make jokes referencing *The Waltons* or the TVA having united towns years ago (true story). Those without this recall say something to the extent of its backward nature and "hickishness," typically followed by, "Was it a private school?" This from people who attended school-like factories with kids who couldn't yet tie shoes holding looped-rope processions down corridors so they didn't get lost, and rooms filled with a couple hundred other students whose names and faces and stories and friendships they'll never know.

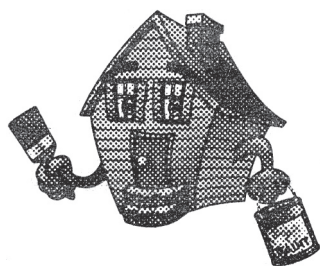
But why the attention now? Why the sudden interest in adding my two-penny fish? It's because annals convey facts. This happened here, at this time and had this effect. One can add adjectives and modifiers that illustrate and give tone but little else if one is to stay true to form. Annals lack as they must because they are bound by their purpose, and because of this the readers are left with what they are told and have experienced before, nothing else.

Odes are bombastic by definition; anthems and chants preach uniformity of thought; poetry is abstract because of precedence and ear; nostalgia adds metaphor at the cost of the concrete and the blade strikes twice; and memory is imperfect, proven early by Mrs. Andersen's attempts to teach us "Telephone." Each form adds its own layer while leaving another behind, so to have annals standing widowed is to invite memorial atrophy and its eventual decay, if not end.

Attempt one: Monterey School is a school. It was built. It is attended. Students learned. It needs fresh paint.

Attempt two: Monterey School was *my* school and though I never saw it constructed, the smell of brush and weeds behind its rear fence and the girl who sat in front of me who always seemed to be wearing Vicks still lingers, though less than the lessons and friendships that remain.

Eighteen years later I have kept in varying degrees of contact with many of my former classmates. One spent time in Africa with her family teaching sustainable farming; we talked at LakeFest. One has transferred from three different colleges and will graduate this year: she bought me



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a coffee. One plans to become a radio host and a minute of conversation brightens me for weeks to come: I saw him in the center of town.

They live all over the country and have visited many more, bringing back what they have seen and becoming where they have been and what they have done. But once they return to their centerpoint for even a moment, in this case the smallest of schools in the smallest of towns, the group is restored and we change once more.

What is my addition then, if each effort ignores the others? What have I taken from a square room circled by cross-legged children waiting to grow big enough to change or maybe just for snack? My addition is not a poem or ode or singular recollection but a Call to Arms, if only we can replace arms with stories and calls with a conversation between old and new friends. My addition is a plea to remember the past for what it was while making it new through discussion and soon-to-be collective thoughts.

The greatest treasure of this town, this school, our chronicles and our memories is that once enough time passes, old becomes new and wonder can be restored through us.

Annals meet shared experience and the full story is told.

— Dylan Moulton

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## Monterey School News

This year six lucky children are attending the Monterey School under the tutelage of our beloved Susan Andersen. For years the school was primarily a kindergarten program, but as of this past spring there were only two kindergarten students registered. Thus, the Monterey School welcomed back five children, added one more, and became a first grade program for 2006–2007. The school now has a new aide, Belinda Twing, who is cheerful and capable and fits in nicely.

The children not only study reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also art, gym, music, and Spanish. Our very own Señora Christine Martin comes weekly and teaches Español. Soon they will begin a sign language course with Evan's mother. Lisa Smyle, a certified interpreter.

Every other week the first graders take the short walk to the library for story time with Kate Basler. Weather permitting, they will go ice-skating for gym class at the Fire Department pavilion. The General Store provides a nutritious school lunch for those who choose that option. It would appear that the school program is alive and well, firmly woven into the fabric of the community.

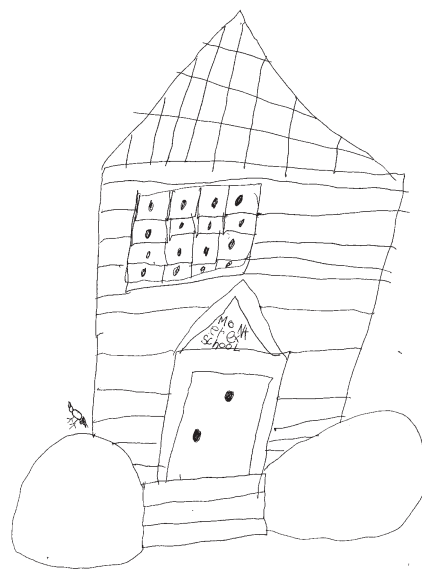
However, the enrollment for next year is expected to be very low again, and needed repairs for the century-old building have a prohibitive price tag. The

cost-per-pupil ratio is expected to be excessive for the school district to support. The district would like to see the enrollment increased to at least eight or ten students to justify the cost of running the program in Monterey.

Please call the Southern Berkshire Regional School District elementary principal Mary Edwards at 413-229-8754 if you have a child to register for next year. A kindergarten student for next fall would have been born in 2002 or early 2003. Try to call soon since the future of the school is about to be discussed.

Let's hope we can keep the school viable. Please call me at 413-528-5834 if you are interested in this issue. Thank you.

— Mary Makuc



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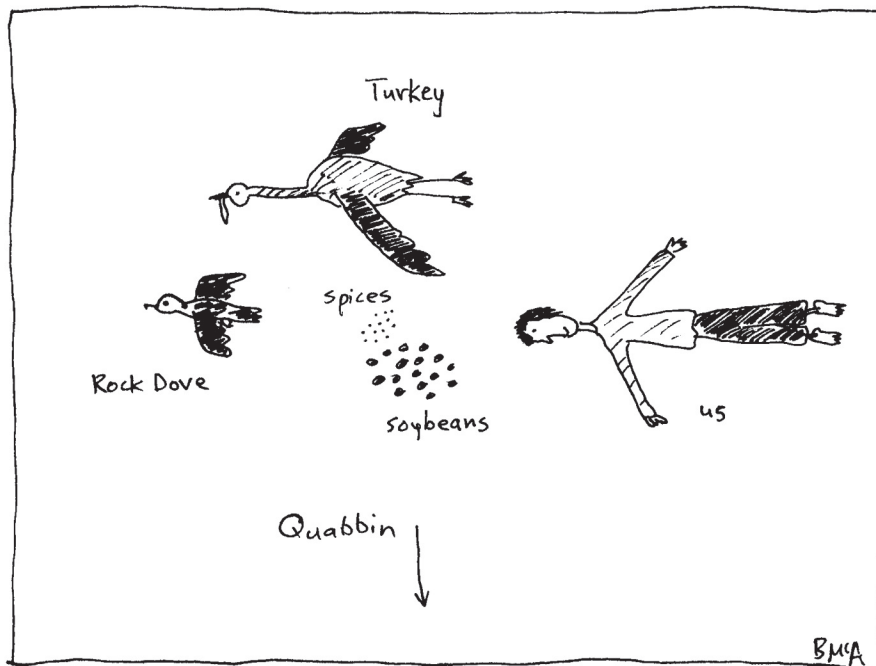
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## Thanksgiving: Three Kinds of Birds

The first bird is the turkey, obviously. That symbol of the supposed first Thanksgiving, the one we used to draw with crayons when I was in school: the Pilgrims (as we called them) with hats and blunderbusses if they were guys and bonnets and long grey if they were gals. There would be this table, out under a tree near Plymouth Rock, and the gals would have put out dishes of food. Guys would be standing around (try sitting down with a blunderbuss under your arm), and then there would be the Indians. They would be brown and have feathers attached to their heads. They would have on very little clothing, it seemed to me, for November in Massachusetts. We understood that without their friendship the Pilgrim guys and gals would not have survived to tell the tale, to have the feast, to bag the turkey with the blunderbuss. This was back in the day when Pilgrims and Indians could be friends. The Pilgrims had just gotten

off the Mayflower and were not looking ahead to global domination and genocide. They were just glad they had food on the table.

The turkey was indigenous, like the Indians. The immigrant Pilgrims (should we call them "alien"?) were familiar with a similar bird back home, one that was domesticated there and had white on the end of the tail feathers. They may even have tried to bring a few along, for meals or for livestock in the New World.



Those European turkeys actually had New World origins also, but from south of the (now) border where Cortez and his wave of global dominators struck land. They took that turkey, with the white on the tail, home to Europe, where it became a barnyard and kitchen feature over the centuries. It was brought back on ships to the more northern New World, where it did not thrive. Fortunately for the Pilgrims, there were already wild turkeys here, as well as friendly Indians.

That is the brief history of turkeys and folks and Thanksgiving. Now we find a new and interesting bird on the scene, in many an upscale grocery. This creature fills the market niche for challenging modern guest lists: Pilgrims, Indians, AND vegetarians. I am speaking of course of the tofurkey. Walks like a turkey, quacks like a turkey, even tastes like a turkey. But when you bite into a tofurkey you know your personal role in global domination is about agribusiness and niche marketing,

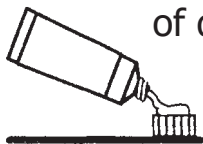
not blunderbusses and direct bloodletting. The tofurkey is probably better for your health and conscience, if not your pocket-book. If we were to work out the world's acres of arable land and unpolluted water supply, we would find we can raise more tofurkeys than turkeys and feed more of our hungry on the soybean than on meat protein. There would have to be an adjustment period for reduction of the yuck response, at least for one or two of the Pilgrims at our

table on Thanksgiving this year. I don't say it can't be done. I just think it might take some kind of carnivores' club membership organ transplant. Or maybe some experience with, say, genuine hunger.

There was one more bird, this year. This was the only one we actually killed ourselves, and it never made it to the table, though I'm sure someone got to eat it. I hope so. We were driving over Blandford in the pouring rain, running a little late and bound to hit traffic on the Pike east

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of Westfield, which we sure did. Coming over a summit and down a steep bit on Route 23, we saw movement on the road ahead. A large grey wing in fluttering spasms, feathers on the wet pavement, and a body.

I hopped out and picked up the warm and still-living body of a pigeon, or rock dove. She was mostly limp, but her orange eye was lively. I could tell that wing was broken. I was getting soaked, so I climbed back into the car and we set off. Now what? A vet, a pigeon department in our hen house, a lonely crippled pigeon every day fluttering at the bars? It was Thanksgiving. I thought immediately of at least one person I know who would have turned that car right around and headed home for pigeon solace material and 24-hour vet hotlines.

My pigeon was not responding, but I was. That bright eye, those white lids that blinked from top and bottom at the same time. Perfect feathers, iridescent bloom, red feet designed for both perching and walking. I thought about pigeons: they came here, just like the Mexican turkeys, with Europeans interested in a good life in the New World. The pigeons took to barns and dovecotes, also to any crannies they could find in town, on buildings. My earliest memory of pigeons is at the train station in Meriden, Connecticut. We used to go there to pick up visitors, see the trains, and feed pigeons. I felt linked to the famous parks of The City, which I only knew from books. They had benches, people reading newspapers, and little children with governesses, and pigeons.

One of my friends here in the Berkshires grew up in such a city. She had little

reverence for pigeons and even confessed to an aversion to birds in general (by which she meant pigeons) because ... "They don't have any arms." She felt they were freaks, in a way. I wonder what she thinks of tofurkeys, for heaven's sake, which are totally dismembered, from birth.

These park pigeons, gone wild from the domesticated rock doves, are typically grey or slatey, with white feathers on the rump, and a reddish or reddish-orange iris with an inner yellow ring. The extinct passenger pigeons had eyes like this. They were about the size of our pigeons, but had longer bodies and tails. Pigeons of today come in all sorts of colors, thanks to careful breeding, but once they go wild they revert over the generations to the passenger pigeon look. They are the only doves we have with that startling eye.

I made my decision about the pigeon and put her down in the damp woods by a lively little brook on the north slope of Blandford Mountain. My warm hands must have revived her some just at the end because she gripped my fingers with her bright red feet and I faltered for a minute. After I'd killed her I checked out the wing: badly, badly broken. No more flying for her, ever, unless I released her totally. So she is up there now, breaking down and reassembling the way we all do in the end. I like to think of her flying over the Quabbin with a Pilgrim, an Indian, a domestic turkey with a white tail tip, and a bunch of soybeans and spice plants. She'll be in the lead, looking back now and then at the rest of us with that amazing eye.

— Bonner J. McAllester



## Sandisfield's Yanner Park Master Plan Complete

Friends of Yanner Park announces the completion of a master plan for Yanner Park in Sandisfield. The park is situated on 257 acres of forested land given to the town by the late Jack Yanner for recreational purposes.

Friends of Yanner Park, a nonprofit, volunteer organization, was created to raise money and work with town government to oversee the creation of the park. The master plan was created by the Conway School of Landscape Design, which specializes in sustainable, environmentally sound design.

Recently, Friends of Yanner Park was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Highland Communities Initiative, a program of the Trustees of Reservations, to help pay for the master plan.

To find out more about Yanner Park, visit [www.yannerpark.org](http://www.yannerpark.org).

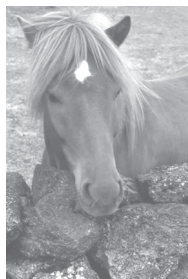


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## Letter from College Around the World in One Night

The International Student Organization puts on a cultural show every year that is a complete representation of the talent and diversity at Middlebury College. Years ago, for my thirteenth birthday, I went to see *Riverdance*. The show made me dance in my head for weeks, although my feeble physical attempts were far from graceful. After my first semester at college last year, I took a January term workshop to learn the basics of Irish step dancing. It was exciting learning a completely new style of dancing, and it was a challenge as well. My years of ballet have come in helpful, but in Irish dancing your arms stay down at your sides and you dance on the balls of your feet; it requires serious leg muscles. During the spring semester we practiced a number of dances ranging in difficulty and put on a spring show for St. Patrick's Day, very appropriate. It was a huge success, and only created more excitement in the group to learn more advanced reels and jigs. This year I'm planning on learning how to do the hard-shoe dancing that sounds so incredible on the stage, I'm

ordering my shoes in a few weeks. We have weekly rehearsals this year and the ISO show was the second show we have participated in this year. We also have live music in the form of a fiddler who can play every jig and reel in the book; he's incredible.

Although we were performing in the show, we sat in the back and watched the first half. The show was almost three hours long, with music and dancing from around the world. There was tap dancing, hip-hop and beat boxing from North America, Hawaiian hula from the Pacific, martial arts from Indonesia, a traditional Philippine bamboo dance, a Chinese silk ribbon dance, music from Iran, dancing from India (Bollywood style), bagpipes from Scotland, and our Irish dancing to name just a few. The show was a perfect blend of cultural numbers with at least seventy-five students participating. The stage had a painted backdrop of fireworks exploding, there was a fashion show in the beginning to model the incredible costumes, hours of practicing went into these dances—and it was all student run. Every time I think I've seen the heights of what students accomplish I'm continually surprised. The show went off without a hitch, no one missed the cues, no costumes fell off, and days later people were still talking about it.

I wish I had more time to get involved in student activities because now is the only time I will really get to do

fun things that I've dreamed of doing for years. I never imagined I would get the chance to step dance. January term this year is going to be exciting. We have one intensive course for a month and plenty of time to take workshops. Other than Irish dancing, this year I'm looking at a sign language course, Chinese calligraphy, a First-Aid CPR course, tap dancing, and the nitty-gritty details of grant writing as a skill set. Although all the students are here for the academics, the student life we all work to cultivate adds the incredible dimension to school that really and truly defines the experience as more than school; it makes me wish there were more hours in a day.

— Tarsi Dunlop



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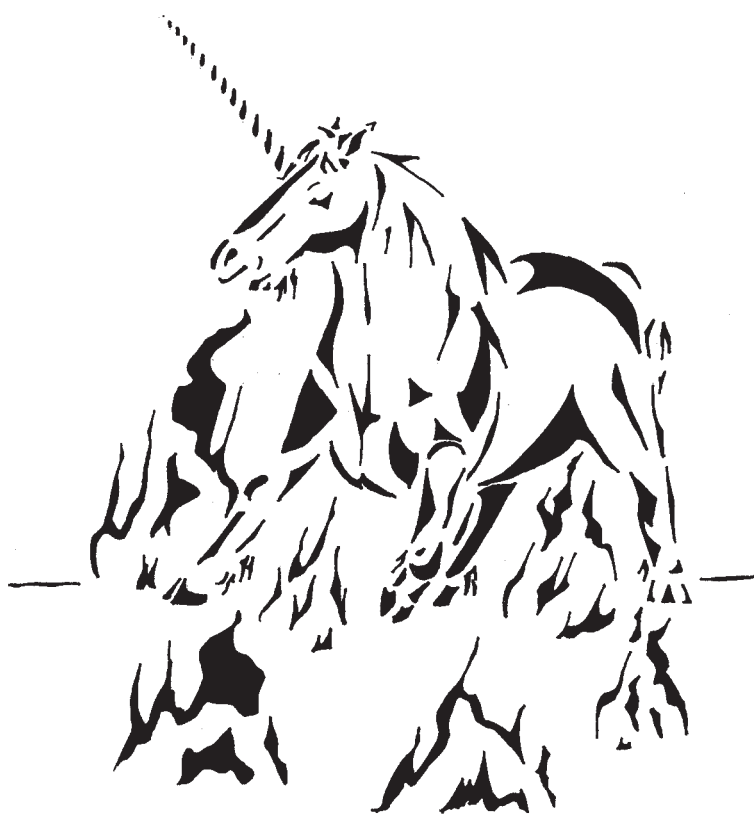
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## The Profound Symbolism of the Season

*Sym-bolos* in Greek means ‘joining together’ as in an outer thing or event with an inner meaning; its antonym *dia-bolos* means to ‘throw apart’ or separate. We seem to have chosen the latter by separating sacred and profane, religious and pagan, sect by sect, spiritual and material, and especially unity and diversity, and so we lose the deepest underlying wonder of this holy-day season. Christmas, Hanukah, Diwali and Yule Logs, and Xmas trees all have one thing in common: the celebration of Light. Since the beginning, our one true source of Light and Life has been the Sun, the one true center of our solar system. Symbolically, our ancestors noticed that the crucifix of seasons marked the apparent stations of the Sun, and what we reject as Sun worship is only the material level of Spirit manifest. The Sun is the symbolic unity behind the glory of diversity. Its element is fire, which gives us light and warmth, and oddly the more you give away, the more there is. On a higher level, we call that love. In the Gospel of John are found the words: “I am the Light that lighteth every man.” We cannot deny that it is the same fire lighting every candle! One and many. The theme of Hanukah is that the light did not go out. In India Diwali is celebrated by lighted candles floating down rivers.

Astronomically, Easter celebrates the spring equinox when the Sun enters Aries, the first fire sign of the zodiac. Nine months later, the time it takes for a baby to be born, the Sun enters the earth sign of



Capricorn, ruled by Saturn. So the Romans celebrated the Winter Solstice with days called the Saturnalia. When Rome became Christian in the fourth century, these holidays were arbitrarily soon declared the time of Jesus’ birth. Symbolically, this is a spiritual or mythical truth! The solstice marks the return of the Sun’s light, the promise of another spring to come, so in the darkest time we celebrate the physical proof of the renewal of life, love, and the generosity of an unseen Spirit made conscious as a Divine Guest within each of us. What unites all humanity is our earth. The pagans saw that mothers of all species

give *form to life* and so the feminine was revered as Mother Nature. And in almost every religion, the avatar or savior has a virgin birth, symbolizing that the true author of life is invisible Spirit or what we call God. The Mother is mortal, the Father, a god or unknown.

Rather than rejecting other religions’ versions, we need to perceive the awesome mystery at work in the cosmos. Another archetype: Zeus/Jupiter/ Santa Claus is the symbolic personification of the process of “Jove-ial” generosity. Why do you suppose we wrap up presents? Perhaps the sacred is truly hidden in the commonplace. Perhaps the covering conceals the deepest gift of all: the immeasurable *meaning of Love!*

— Alice O. Howell

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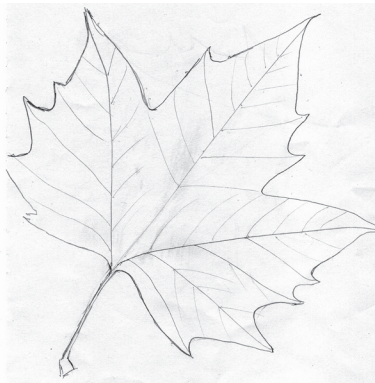
## Leaf Correction

To the Editor:

I am writing to apologize for an error that we, Emre Arbac and I, unwittingly caused in the October issue of the *Monterey News*.

Emre drew a picture of a leaf from his imagination. My poem and my letter that accompanied his leaf drawing made it sound as if his leaf was a plane tree leaf.

I recently visited Emre in Istanbul. Together we worked on tracing an actual plane tree leaf to send you. [See illustration.] It looks quite a bit like a maple leaf, but larger. The trees grow to an immense size. We found them growing in the ancient palace grounds, but also lining the streets of the old roadways in Istanbul and beside the roads in fishing villages that line the Bosphorus.



According to one site on the Internet, Hypocrites taught beneath a plane tree that is still standing on the Greek island of Kos.

Hopefully the lovely, old maples of Monterey will survive their recent infection and live as long as the ancient plane trees of Greece and Turkey.

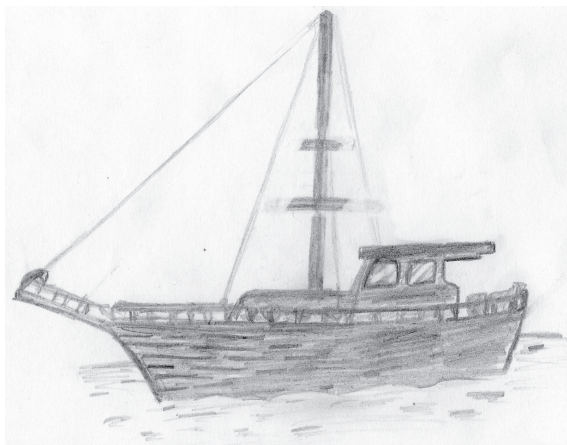
— Elizabeth M. Wolff

## New Marlborough Holiday Art and Crafts Sale

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is sponsoring a holiday art and crafts sale on the weekend of December 8 to 10 at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, on Route 57 in New Marlborough. The hours are:

- Friday, Dec. 8, 6:00–8:00 p.m. (opening reception).
- Saturday, Dec. 9, Noon–5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 10, Noon–5:00 p.m.

The sale will feature art and crafts made by local artists and craftspeople—excellent gifts for hard-to-buy-for people! There will also be a holiday concert on Saturday afternoon, and Sunday is Kids' Day. A drawing will be held to give away a gift basket on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by to browse, shop, and chat!



*Emre Arbac's drawing of a Turkish gulet (a pleasure boat) in the Mediterranean.*

### Transfer Station Winter Hours

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Sunday    | 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m.     |
| Saturday  | 8 a.m.–1 p.m.     |

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## Remembering Virgil Brallier

Virgil V. Brallier, of Malden, Mass., died November 1, 2006, after a brief illness. He was the husband for 67 years of Marie Esther (Woodie) Brallier, whom he married in 1939.

Born May 25, 1915, in Hall City, Fla., he was the son of the late George and Eva Brallier and grew up on the family farm in Iowa.

In 1942, he received a divinity degree from Bethany Seminary in Chicago. He received a bachelor's degree from McPherson College and a Ph.D. in psychology from Boston University.

Mr. Brallier began his ministry with interim positions at the Church of the Brethren in Kansas and in Elkhart, Ind. His first two full-time pastorates were in Brownsville, Md., from 1945 to 1948, and Waynesboro, Va., from 1948 to 1953. He then took the position of minister of the Maplewood Congregational Church in Malden, Mass., where he served from 1953 to 1956 while pursuing his Ph.D. at Boston University. Mr. Brallier was the pastor at the United Church of Christ in North Adams from 1956 through 1964 and the minister at the Monterey United Church of Christ in Monterey from 1965 to 1985.

He and his wife then retired to Osprey, Fla., where they spent many happy years together. In August 2006, they relocated to Malden to be closer to many members of their family.

In addition to his lifelong ministry and community involvement as a pastor, counselor, and friend, Mr. Brallier served on the board of directors of the Massachusetts State Conference of the United Church of Christ, as chairman of the Berkshire County Board of Mental Health, and on the YMCA board in Berkshire County. At Gould Farm in Monterey, he was chairman of the board of directors and a practicing psychologist. Mr. Brallier was instrumental in establishing the *Monterey News* monthly newspaper and the annual "I Love Monterey Day" celebration, both of which are still going strong.

He was also involved with the Monterey Community Dinners, the Hupi Woods Association, Ecumenical Worship, and the 1976 restoration of the Monterey church as a historical building. Mr. Brallier will be remembered for his spirit of love, sense of humor, compassion, and devotion to church, faith, family, and community.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one sister, Katherine Duncanson of

Modesto, Calif.; his sons, Stanley E. Brallier of Laconia, N.H., and Gary D. Brallier of East Granby, Conn.; his daughters, Donna M. Brallier-Lincoln of Medford and Sylvia E. Brallier of Las Vegas, Nev.; six grandchildren, Mark Allen, Scott Brallier, Cristin Ayotte, Erin Calitri, Jacob Singh, Kiva Singh; and five great-grandchildren, Katherine Allen, Aaron Allen, Caroline Allen, Emma Brallier, and Laurin Brallier.

He was also the brother of the late Evan Brallier and Amos Brallier of Curlew, Iowa, and father of the late Stephen J. Brallier.

A memorial service was held November 8 from the First Congregational Church in Malden. A service of commitment will be held at a later date.



Phil Cooley D/B/A

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## Remembering Henry Wolfer (1923–2006)

Henry George Wolfer died in the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 24, at the Great Barrington Rehabilitation Center, from lung cancer. He was 83. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, November 9, at Corashire Cemetery for local friends and immediate family. On Saturday, November 11, Veteran's Day, a memorial service was held in the United Church of Christ. Pastor Elizabeth Goodman presided at both gatherings. The flag at the Post Office had been lowered to half mast before the memorial service, and after the bell in the tower tolled eleven times Henry's closest and oldest friends, some smiling through the tears, stood one by one at the podium and eulogized him with humorous and poignant stories.

Henry spent the happiest days of his life in Monterey, the last ten years at 120 New Marlborough Road in a bucolic rural setting at Lowland Farm, living in a former one-room schoolhouse, one of five still in use in Monterey at the turn of the century. Henry himself had local roots, having been brought to Monterey as a boy in the 1930s by his father, Henry Paul Wolfer, a Brooklyn physician, and his mother, Ruby Wolfer, for weekends and vacations on the shores of Lake Garfield. The high-water

mark in Henry's memories of growing up were of the days spent swimming, diving, fishing, and finding arrowheads along the shoreline.

When the polio epidemic broke out in the city, Henry was enrolled in the Episcopal Lenox Boy's School, and he and his mother stayed fulltime in Monterey, while his father went to his weekly practice in the city. Henry became friends with other children of Lake Garfield families, which included Maxwells, Leuchs, Palmers, Groehls, Schneiders, and Tryons, and they all would grow up to become what has been called the Greatest Generation, with the coming of World War II in 1941 — the honor roll in front of Town Hall lists no fewer than 57 names of those who served their country.

Henry was in the 118th Army Airborne Division from 1942–1945, and as a sergeant took part in the Allied invasion of Europe, landing in a glider behind enemy lines at Utah Beach on D-day; subsequently he saw action in northern France and the Rhineland. After Germany surrendered, he was briefly stationed in England and took some courses at Oxford.

Upon returning home, he became production plant manager at a small factory on Beartown Mountain Road operated by the president of Phillips Screw Co. until it moved to Boston. He also worked for Scott Paper, which merged with Kimberly-

Clark, and later for General Electric in Pittsfield. For a few years, he and his wife, Eleanor, ran the General Store, which at the time was in the building of the current Gould Farm Roadside Store. He was also a past member of The Alford Brook (fishing) Club, and more recently an engaging member of the Coffee Club that meets in the church basement, with proceeds going to the church itself and other charitable causes.

Henry leaves a son, Henry Paul Wolfer; a former wife, Eleanor; a stepson, Robert Nesser; a daughter, Linda, from his first marriage to Ruth Heath; and a beloved second cousin, Barbara Schneider Wilkes, daughter of the late Marion Schneider, Henry's first cousin. He also left a message for those who he would be leaving behind with Pastor Elizabeth Goodman, at his bedside the day before he died: "Tell everyone not to worry about me. I am not in any great pain, not afraid to die, and have lived a great life!"

Contributions to honor Henry's colorful legacy and fond memories on behalf of the Coffee Club may be sent to the Monterey United Church Of Christ.

— George Emmons  
☪



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## Calendar

**Every Monday (exc. holidays):** Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Town Offices.

**Tuesday, December 5:** Full moon.

**Friday, December 8–Sunday, December 10:** Art and crafts sale, New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, Route 57 in New Marlborough. See p. 20.

**Wednesday, December 13:** Monterey Knitting Circle, 6–7:30 p.m., Monterey General Store.

**Thursday, December 14:** Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

**Friday, December 15:** Hanukkah begins at sundown.

**Saturday, December 16:** Storytime and crafts for children, presented by Denise Andrus, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

**Sunday, December 17:** Community Christmas Party, Monterey Meetinghouse, 1:30 p.m. Hayride (about one hour), followed by refreshments and visit from Santa in Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by Coffee Club and Park Commission.

**Tuesday, December 19:** Free health screening, 10 a.m., Town Hall meeting Room.

**Thursday, December 21:** Winter solstice.

## Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Readers like you make it possible for us to continue publishing. We know readers receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

Elizabeth & Emanuel Wolff

Marie Leuchs

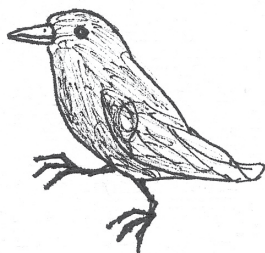
Alan & Erma Kranz

Judith Oplinger (in memory of Virgil Brallier)

**Saturday, December 23:** No Mountain Laurel contra dance this month. See you next month.

**Monday, December 25:** Christmas Day. Town offices closed.

**Friday, December 29:** Benefit concert for local musicians, featuring local musicians, 7 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Tickets \$10. See p. 8.



## The Observer

October 26–November 25

High temp. (10/31)..... 68°  
 Low temp. (11/22)..... 21°  
 Avg. high temp. .... 50.4°  
 Avg. low temp. .... 33.6°  
 Avg. temp. .... 41.9°  
 Total precipitation ..... 5.31 in.  
 Precipitation occurred on 18 days.  
 Trace of snow on 5 days.

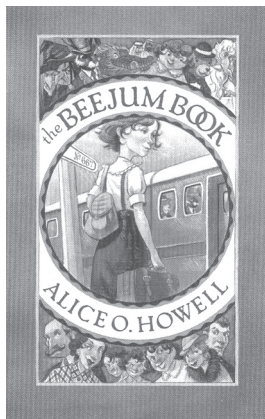
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— Andrew Harvey,  
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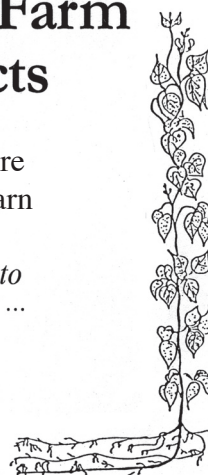
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*Contributions from local artists this month:*  
*Emre Arbac, p. 20; Rachel Arnow, pp. 17, 19, 23;*  
*Maureen Banner, pp. 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 21;*  
*Marya Makuc, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.*

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